6392692/2022/SEC-IV-EFS01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department – Departmental Proceedings against Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (retired on 31.07.2019), earlier worked as Social Forestry Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services(Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Articles of Charge issued - Regarding.

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ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.104 **Dated 20.09.2022**

Read the following:

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O R D E R:

In pursuance of the sanction accorded by Government under sub-Clause(i) of clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 9 of the Revised Pension Rules, 1980 for instituting departmental proceedings against Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer in G.O.Ms.No. 64, EFS&T Department, dated 20.09.2022, it is proposed to hold an inquiry against Sri M. Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991. The inquiry shall be conducted by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ananthapuramu Circle, Ananthapuramu by whom the departmental proceedings are to be conducted in accordance with the sanction at Ananthapuramu.

2) The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the Articles of Charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3) Sri M. Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division is directed to submit a written statement of his defence within (10) days of the receipt of this order and also to state whether he desires to be heard in person.

4) Sri M. Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in Social Forestry Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charge as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Articles of Charge.

5) Sri M. Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division is informed that, if he does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the date specified in para 3 above or does not appear in person before the Inquiring Authority or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC&A) Rules 1991 or the orders/directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the enquiry against him ex-parte.

6) The receipt of the Government Order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVENOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked as Social Forestry Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division (in duplicate).
[Through the Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur].

Copy to
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P, Guntur for information and necessary action. He is requested to serve the Government Orders on the Deputy Conservator of Forests, obtain his dated acknowledgment on the duplicate copy and submit the same to the Government immediately.

SF/SC (Computer No.1555545)

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ANNEXURE -I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI M. REDDAPPA, FOREST RANGE OFFICER (RETIRED), EARLIER WORKED AS SOCIAL FORESTRY MADANAPALLI OF SF CHITTOOR DIVISION OF ANANTHAPURAMU CIRCLE.

That the said Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in SF Range, Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuramu Circle for the period from 21.02.2018 to 31.07.2018. During the said period, he had grossly neglected his legitimate duties as mentioned in the following Articles of Charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE

"That, Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer(Retired), earlier worked as Social Forestry Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuramu Circle had grossly neglected his legitimate duties and failed in execution & Supervision of the works in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle during the year 2018-19 which resulted in infructuous expenditure and treated as loss to the Government. Hence, the Forest Range officer (Retd.) is responsible for failure of the Avenue Plantations and caused waste of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494/- in violation of Articles 5, 273, 294, 300, 301 and 302 of the Andhra Pradesh Financial Code.

That, Sri M. Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in SF Range Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuramu Circle has utterly failed to keep up his duties and responsibilities and also failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion of duty and exhibited misconduct unbecoming of a Government employee in violation of Rules 3 of the A.P.C.S.(Conduct) Rules, 1964 & Section 156 of A.P. Forest Department Code. **Hence the charge**.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE – II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS AND MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI M.REDDAPPA, FOREST RANGE OFFICER(RETIRED), EARLIER WORKED IN S.F. RANGE MADANAPALLI OF SF CHITTOOR DIVISION OF ANANTHAPURAMU CIRCLE:

That the said Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked in Social Forestry Range Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuramu Circle for the period from 21.02.2018 to 31.07.2019. During the said period he had grossly neglected his legitimate duties as mentioned in the following Articles of Charge.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE

"That, Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier worked as Social Forestry Madanapalli of SF Chittoor Division of Ananthapuramu Circle had grossly neglected his legitimate duties and failed in execution & Supervision of the works in Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle during the year 2018-19 which resulted in infructuous expenditure and treated as loss to the Government. Hence, the Forest Range officer (Retd.) is responsible for failure of the Avenue Plantations and caused waste of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494/- in violation of Articles 5, 273, 294, 300, 301 and 302 of the Andhra Pradesh Financial Code.

BASIS OF CHARGE

In the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Ref.no.14695/2017/NC-2 dt.19.06.2018, an amount of Rs.171.00 lakh was allotted to S.F.Division, Chittoor for raising of 95 kms. Avenue Plantation during 2018-19. Accordingly, Range-wise targets were fixed and instructions were issued to raise the Avenue Plantations duly sanctioning the estimates for Rs.35.51 lack. The total sanctioned amount was also released to Ankalammakonda VSS of Madanapalle S.F.Range for raising of 20 kms. Avenue Plantation in 4 stretches @ Rs.8.89 lakh for each stretch in DSO.no.14/2018-19;16/2018-19 & 17/2018-19 and Rs.8.84 lakh in DSO.no.15/2018-19.

Further, the DFO, S.F.Division, Chittoor has submitted that on verification, it is noticed that, Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer(Retd.), earlier S.F.Range, Madanapalle had not taken any precautionary measures prescribed in the sanctioned estimates and instructions of the higher officers issued from time to time while raising of Avenue Plantations. Necessary instructions were also issued to Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer, S.F.Range, Madanapalle from time to time in DFO, S.F.Division, Chittoor Rc.no.07/2018/M1, dt.25.10.2018, 12.11.2018, & 16.11.2018 to rectify the defects pointed out by the Superior Officers, duly giving sufficient time for rectification and report compliance. However, Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer, S.F.Range, Madanapalle had not taken any steps to rectify the defects. During filed inspection on 01.02.2019 by the Conservator of Forests, Ananthapuramu, it is noticed that the defects have not been rectified by Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer, S.F.Range, Madanapalle. Hence, the Conservator of Forests, Ananthapuramu in Rc.no.853/2019/M2, dt.13.06.2019 called for the explanation of Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer, S.F.Range, Madanapalle. Even though explanation was called for by the CF., Ananthapuramu, Sri M.Reddappa, Forest Range Officer did not bother to rectify/ clarify the defects pointed out by the Superior Officers and ignored all the instructions, which shows the gross neglect of his legitimate duties.

In view of the above, a team consisting of FRO, SF, Tirupati, FRO, SF, Chittoor and Dy.RO, Molakalacheruvu of S.F.Madanapalle Range jointly inspected the Avenue Plantations on 01.07.2019 and submitted their inspection report, wherein the Avenue Plantations 1) Pasavalavandlapalle to Kalikiri (5) kms.; and 2) Pasavalavandlapalle to Mahal 5 kms. are totally failure and there was huge deviation noticed with reference to the sanctioned estimates. **Hence, the Forest Range Officer is responsible for failure of the Avenue Plantations and caused waste of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494/- the details are as follows:**

Sl. No.	DSO No.	Short fall of work- Amount in Rs.	Deviation / causalities noticed Amount in Rs.	Total amount to be recovered in Rs.
1.	14/2018-19	2,85,419/-	2,58,367/-	5,43,786/-
2.	15/2018-19	1,89,325/-	5,12,383/-	7,01,708/-
	Total	4,74, 744/-	7,70,750/-	12,45,494/-

As per Article 176, A.P. Financial Code Vol.I *"No bill should ordinarily be passed for payment without the entries in the Measurement book having been check measured by the Forest Range Officer. In any exceptional cases in which check measurement is not carried out the reasons should be concisely and clearly noted in the "Remarks column" by the Forest Range Officer. The fact of check measurement by Forest Range Officer should invariably be noted in the Measurement Book at the time of check measurement and the items check measured should be indicated by the initials of the Checking officer, which shall be placed on the left side of the column "Description of work" in line with item check measured".*

As per A.P. Forest Department Code Section 102 & 155 *"the Forest Range Officer is responsible for the execution of all works in the Range with the help of Forest Section Officers and Forest Beat Officers, according to the instructions and orders of Divisional Forest Officers. The Forest Range Officer must carry out his/her inspection in detail and see that all his/her sub-ordinates do their work properly. In the event of serious misconduct by any subordinate, the Range Officer should report the case to Divisional Forest Officer for disciplinary action. The Forest Range Officer will execute the sanctioned works at the rates not exceeding the sanctioned rates and record measurements and quantities of the work done".*

But the Forest Range Officer has not followed the Article 176 of A.P. Financial Code / A.P. Forest Department Code Section 102 & 155 and blindly signed and submitted the cash accounts to the Division Office for incorporation. This shows gross negligence of his legitimate duties as a Forest Range Officer, hence the Forest Range Officer is responsible for failure of the avenue plantations and caused waste of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494 /-

1. The Forest Range Officer did not submitted any report to the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Chittoor, about rectification of the defects pointed out by the superior officers.
2. The Forest Range Officer has not instructed the Plantation Watchers to rectify the defects.
3. The Forest Range Officer booked the expenditure without rectification of the defects actually in the field at all.
4. The Forest Range Officer has utterly failed to comply the A.P. Forest Department Code Section 102 & 155 while execution of work.

In view of the above, it is concluded that, Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer (Retired) is responsible for failure of the avenue plantations over a length of 10 Kms and caused huge loss of Government funds to a tune of Rs.12,45,494/- **(Rupees Twelve lakh Forty five thousand four hundred and ninety four only) due to negligence of Sri M. Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer(Retired).**

Thus Sri M.Reddeppa, Forest Range Officer, Social Forestry Range, Madanapalle has utterly failed to keep up his Duties and Responsibilities and also failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion of duty and exhibited misconduct unbecoming of a Government employee in violation of Rule 3 of the A.P., Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and Section 102 & 155 of A.P. Forest Department Code. Hence, the Charge.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

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ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI M. REDDEPPA, FRO, SOCIAL FORESTRY RANGE, MADANAPALLE OF SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, CHITTOOR OF ANANTAPURAMU CIRCLE ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1) D.F.O., SF Chittoor DSO no.14/2018-19 & 15/2018-19.
2) D.F.O., SF Chittoor Rc.no.07/M1, dt:25.10.2018.
3) D.F.O., SF Chittoor Rc.no.07/M1, dt:12.11.2018.
4) D.F.O., SF Chittoor Rc.no.07/M1, dt:16.11.2018.
5) This Office Rc.no.07/2018/M1, dt: 06.03.2019.
6) This Office Rc.no.68/2018/M3, dt: 04.06.2019.
7) This Office Rc.no.07/2018/M1, dt: 15.06.2019.
8) Conservator of Forests, Anantapuramu Circle, Anantapuramu Rc.no. 853/2019/M2, dt: 13.06.2019.
9) D.F.O, SF, Chittoor Rc.No.68/2018/M3, dt. 17.06.2019.
10) D.F.O, SF, Chittoor Rc.no. 07/2018/M1, dt: 25.06.2019.
11) D.F.O., SF Chittoor Rc.no.07/M1, dt:30.06.2019
12) FRO, SF, Tirupati Lr no: FRO SF, Tirupati & Team/2019, dt.01.07.2019.
13) Deviation statement.
14) M.BOOK no.01/2017-18.
15) M. BOOK no.19/2018-19.
16) M. BOOK no.20/2018-19.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI M.REDDEPPA, FOREST RANGE OFFICER(RETIRED), EARLIER WORKED AS SOCIAL FORESTRY RANGE, MADANAPALLE OF SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, CHITTOOR DIVISION OF ANANTAPURAMU CIRCLE ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1) Sri G. Srinivasulu, SFS., D.F.O., SF, Chittoor.
2) Sri K. Venkatasubbaiah, FRO, SF, Tirupati.
3) Sri D.L. Viswamurthi, FRO, SF, Chittoor,
4) Sri Y. Chandra Sekhar Reddy, Dy.RO, SF, Molakalacheruvu Section of SF Madanpalle Range.

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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